Status of removal of River-Princess from Condolim Beach

376. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the status of removal of River Princess from Condolim Beach; and

(b) the chances of the ship being completely broken and spoiling the beautiful beach in the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests issued directions on 4th May, 2001 under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, directing M/s Salgaocar Mining Industries Ltd. (SMIL), Goa to defuel the ship, refloat and tow it away to a ship breaking yard and dismantle the same within 30 days. Since these directions were not complied with, the Central Government filed a criminal application in the court of Judicial Magistrate at Panaji under Section 15 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Simultaneously, .under 'the Goa Tourist Places (Protection and Maintenance) Act, 2001' and Rules made thereunder Department of Tourism, Government of Goa initiated action against M/s SMIL. As per the notice dated November 5, 2002, issued by Government of Goa regarding removal of the ship from Condolim Beach, the Director, Department of Tourism, Government of Goa shall decide the matter and issue the final orders, as expeditiously as possible and, in any case, within a period of 60 days from 14.10.2002. Government of Goa is hopeful of getting the grounded vessel removed from the present site before any mishap.

Idol immersion in rivers and ponds

377. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board proposes to amend the existing Pollution Control Laws, to stop the practice of idol immersion in rivers and ponds;